

HOUSE BILL 1228

By Fitzhugh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14 and Title 58, Chapter 1, relative to criminal offenses involving military medals, ribbons and decorations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section thereto:

58-1-118.

(a) It is an offense for a person to knowingly wear, purchase, attempt to purchase, solicit for purchase, mail, ship, import, export, produce blank certificates of receipt for, manufacture, sell, attempt to sell, advertise for sale, trade, barter, or exchange for anything of value any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the armed forces of the United States, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law.

(b) It is an offense for a person to falsely represent such person, verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the armed forces of the United States, any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration, or medal, or any colorable imitation of such item.

(c) It is an offense for a person to knowingly wear, purchase, attempt to purchase, solicit for purchase, mail, ship, import, export, produce blank certificates of receipt for, manufacture, sell, attempt to sell, advertise for sale, trade, barter, or

exchange for anything of value any decoration or medal authorized by the Tennessee military department, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law.

(d) It is an offense for a person to falsely represent such person, verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by the Tennessee military department, the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation of such item.

(e) A violation of subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) is a Class B misdemeanor, except if a decoration or medal involved is a Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart or any replacement or duplicate medal for such medal as authorized by law then a violation of subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.